

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A method for producing a bent double-walled component comprising an inner pipe and an outer pipe with an intermediate space therebetween, comprising the steps of:

inserting the inner pipe into the outer pipe with an intermediate piece in the intermediate space, wherein the intermediate piece has a thickness corresponding to a predetermined desired separation distance between the inner and outer pipe and is formed from a material which is converted essentially only into low-molecular cleavage products when heated; and

bending the composite structure formed from the inner pipe, outer pipe and intermediate piece.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the double-walled component is an exhaust pipe of an internal combustion engine, and the intermediate piece burns during operation of the internal combustion engine.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the intermediate piece is shaped as a ring.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein a plurality of intermediate pieces in the form of rings are arranged along a longitudinal axis of the component.

20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the intermediate piece is shaped as a spiral which extends along a longitudinal axis of the component.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the intermediate piece is formed as a coating on the inner pipe prior to the inserting step.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the intermediate piece is polyethylene.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the intermediate piece is placed onto the inner pipe or is placed into the outer pipe prior to the inserting step, and the intermediate piece is sized to match the size of the pipe on which is the intermediate piece is placed.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one respective end of the inner pipe (11) and of the outer pipe (12) are at a distance from each other.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the outer pipe is reduced in diameter at least one of its two ends, so that the at least one reduced diameter end of the outer pipe bears against the inner pipe.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inner pipe is increased in diameter at least one of its two ends, so that the at least one increased diameter end of the inner pipe bears against the outer pipe, and the inner pipe is turned outward in a tulip-shaped manner with respect to the outer pipe.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one welded connection is provided in a region of contact between the inner pipe and the outer pipe.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein at least one welded connection is provided in a region of contact between the inner pipe and the outer pipe.

29. (New) A bent double-walled component, comprising:

an outer pipe;

an inner pipe located within the outer pipe with an intermediate space therebetween; and

an intermediate piece located in the intermediate space, wherein the intermediate piece has a thickness corresponding to a predetermined desired separation distance between the inner and outer pipe and is formed from a material which is converted essentially only into low-molecular cleavage products when heated.

30. (New) The component as claimed in claim 29, wherein the double-walled component is an exhaust pipe of an internal combustion engine, and the intermediate piece burns during operation of the internal combustion engine.

31. (New) An exhaust system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a bent double-walled exhaust pipe, the bent double-walled exhaust pipe including:

an outer pipe;

an inner pipe located within the outer pipe with an intermediate space therebetween; and

an intermediate piece located in the intermediate space, wherein the intermediate piece has a thickness corresponding to a predetermined desired separation distance between the inner and outer pipe and is formed from a

material which is converted essentially only into low-molecular cleavage products when heated; and

an adjacent exhaust pipe section,

wherein an end of the inner pipe of the bent double-walled exhaust pipe is connected to the adjacent exhaust pipe section via a sliding fit.